the budgetary situation and take steps to ensure adherence to the fiscal deficit target. Accordingly, it was decided to achieve at lease 5 per cent savings in the budgetary support for Central Plan 1997-98. Details of the proposed 5 per cent cut in the plan budget allocation of this Ministry are given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d) No final decision has yet been taken about the proposed 9th plan outlay. However, this Ministry is keen to ensure that the outlay is doubled in the 9th Plan.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Department	Budgetary Allocation	Cut Proposed	Revised Allocation
1. Rural Development	2195.00	109.75	2085.25
2. Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation	6805.70	340.29	6465.41
3. Wastelands Development	95.00	4.75	91.25
Total	9095.70	454.79	8640.91

Unmanned Level Crossing

431. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unammed level crossings in the Railways zone-wise and state-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to man these level crossings; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in that direction in 1997-98?

THE MINISTER RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) 24350 Nos.

Zone-wise :

Railways	Number of Level Crossings
Central	1681
Eastern	984
Northern	4406
North Eastern	3260
Northeast Frontier	1673
Southern	2560
South Central	2023
South Eastern	3632
Western	4131
Total	24350

State-Wise :

State	Number of Level Crossings
Assam	1045
Andhra Pradesh	1555
Bihar	2022
Delhi	5
Gujarat	2930
Haryana	521
Himachal Pradesh	290
Jammu & Kashmir	36
Karnataka	1067
Kerala	227
Madhya Pradesh	1783
Maharashtra	1538
Manipur	1
Mizoram	1
Orissa	1136
Punjab	1053
Rajasthan	2227
Tamil Nadu	1566
Tripura	36
Uttar Pradesh	3709
West Bengal	1587
Chandigarh	2
Pondicherry	9
Goa	3
Nagaland	1
Total	24350

(b) and (c) The sensitive unmanned level crossings willl be on a planned basis, after due prioritisation, converted into manned level crossings with the help of the State Govts. Who have to invest the initial capital cost.

While the manning of unmanned level crossings is taken up at the request of State Govts. at their cost, the Railways have decided to man 68 vulnerable level crossings at their own cost in 1997-98, due to safety considerations.